

J. H.

FIRST SETTLERS OF HEBER VALLEY

J. M. T.



WILLIAM CUMMINGS

Son of John Cummings and Rachel Kennedy. Born July 30, 1835, in Gibson County, Tenn. Indian War Veteran. Said to have been first settler to have plowed first ground in Provo Valley, Utah.

CUMMINGS, WILLIAM (son of John Cummings and Rachel Kennedy). Born July 30, 1835, in Gibson county, Tenn. Married Mary Annie Meeks Oct. 3, 1861, Provo, Utah (daughter of William Meeks and Mary Elizabeth Rhodes), who was born Nov. 22, 1844, Nauvoo, Ill. Their children: William C. b. Sept. 29, 1862, m. Jane Whatcott 1881; Mary Elizabeth b. Dec. 20, 1864, m. Thomas Gardner 1882; John b. Jan. 26, 1867, and Rachel b. June 9, 1869, died; Nancy Jane b. Sept. 2, 1871, m. William Winters 1896; Ada Evaline b. May 26, 1874, m. Charles Whitaker 1898; Sarah Ann b. Oct. 16, 1876, m. Charles George 1895; Mary Ann b. April 8, 1879, died; Harvey b. Nov. 12, 1881, m. Ida Bird 1902; Isaac b. May 26, 1884; Eva b. March 15, 1887, m. Stanley Johnson 1907. Family home Kanosh, Utah.

First settler in Provo Valley, where he ploughed the first ground. Black Hawk and Walker Indian war veteran. Assisted to bring immigrants to Utah.

On May 1, 1859, snow lay deep on parts of Heber Valley, ice covered the streams—not an encouraging prospect for pioneers who were planning a permanent settlement. However, the eleven men who made up, what they thought, was the first company to enter Heber Valley were not the kind to easily accept defeat.

After an overnight rest in the southern end of the valley, morning saw them proceeding northward on foot toward the proposed townsite.

In the not to far distance something in the sagebrush seemed to be moving back and forth, back and forth. Of a certainty it must be animals. Approaching cautiously they were most happy to find friends—white men and teams of oxen. The men had their oxen yoked to plows and were breaking ground. It must have been a bit of a let-down to find that others had beat them to a goal they had tried so desperately to achieve.

Robert Broadhead with two ox teams and Jevons Davis also with two yokes had each plowed about one acre of land. Mr. Davis had sowed wheat in his section and a boy was harrowing.

These men had come in from Nephi, a town farther south. By three days they had preceded the company of eleven men.

From Robert Broadhead and James Davis it was learned that other valley ground had been broken prior to the coming of the larger company. William Cummings and Robert Parker were putting in crops on Center Creek.

